The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the industrial, legislative, and political fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1814 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1946 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 36, NO. 3

Fight INFANTILE PARALYSIS
JANUARY 14-31
The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis

AFL Backs Drive To Bring GIs Home From Overseas

Green Warns War Dep't To Speed Up Discharges or Face Censure

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor joined the drive of overseas veterans to get home more quickly than the confused policies of the War Department permit.

AFL President William Green, responding to appeals from large groups of GIs stationed in the Pacific and in Europe, warned the War Department that unless it speeds up its demobilization program Congress will order it to do so.

Confirming Mr. Green's prediction, the Senate Military Affairs Committee ordered an immediate investigation of the situation and summoned Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, Army chief of staff, as its first witness.

Mr. Green called upon the War Department to revise the size of American occupation forces abroad to the lowest possible figure consistent with safety and to speed the return of surplus troops eligible for discharge.

Mr. Green revealed receipt of a radiogram from 7,500 AFL members stationed in Manila asking the American Federation of Labor to assist in the fight to speed demobilization. Another message was received from a GI group in Manila charging that the "unwarranted and drastic provisions of the demobilization program announced by the War Department Jan. 5" constitutes a "complete breaking of faith with army personnel."

"Lack of shipping is no longer a feasible excuse for slow demobilization," said the message. "It is obvious that the ancient argument of military necessity is being foisted upon the public and Congress."

Responding to these appeals, Mr. Green declared:

"Now that the war is over, there can be no justification for maintaining our armed forces at an excessively large figure. The American Federation of Labor is aware of the fact that the United States will have to keep considerable forces in Germany and Japan for an indefinite period. These are conquered and unfriendly hostile. But the same considerations certainly do not apply to the Philippines and to the thousands upon thousands of American troops are still stationed. Let's bring them home at once.

"The War Department has not lived up to its promises to the servicemen. They have lost confidence in the sincerity of its expressed point of rapid demobilization. Their morale is shaken.

"The American people here at home are in no mood to tolerate such a state of affairs. Unless the War Department promptly improves and speeds up its demobilization program, it may find itself in the position of receiving orders from Congress to do so."

Veterans Training For Gov't Jobs

Washington, D. C.—Through a cooperative arrangement between the Navy Department and the War Shipping Administration, 160 veterans are receiving on-the-job training, for government and private industrial jobs, at naval installations in the Washington area, Howard P. Richenderfer, manager of the Washington-Va. Regional Office, announced.

Described for training under the provisions of either the GI bill or the law providing for rehabilitation of disabled veterans, these men are working-learning-earning at the Naval Gun Factory, Naval Research Laboratory, Naval Torpedo Station and the National Observatory. While serving their apprenticeship, they receive the regular apprentice pay plus the subsistence allowance or pension to which they are entitled by law, so long as the total amount does not exceed the beginning wage of the job for which they are training.

Under the specially-arranged law, veterans training under the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 get a monthly living allowance of $50 if they have dependents, $65 if without dependents. Disabled veterans in training under Public Law 16 get a minimum monthly pension of $115 with dependents, $105 without, plus allowances for individual dependents.

The Veterans Administration is working out similar plans with other government agencies, and it is expected that additional apprentice training programs will be operating soon. The Department of Agriculture, will make such training available in the near future, and negotiations also are underway with the Bureau of Engraving and Printing of the Treasury. Veterans training for these government jobs may, upon successful completion of the course, be appointed to the job, provided they qualify under Civil Service requirements, or they may take similar jobs in private industry.

Low-Cost Veteran Housing Pushed By U. S. Agencies

Washington, D. C.—The first consideration of the Federal Housing Administration will be to expedite construction of housing completed under $10,000 and to be occupied by veterans under the priority system for scarce building materials, FHA Commissioner Raymond M. Foley declared.

Application forms for priorities for building materials presently in critical short supply will be available at all of FHA's field offices for individual veterans who want to build a home of their own as well as builders who want to erect one or more dwellings either for sale or rental for which veterans of World War II will be given preference.

Mr. Foley asserted that the $10,000 sales price, which includes land and improvements, or an $80 a month rental are maximum figures and that every effort will be made to get a volume of construction at lower levels.

In a letter to state and district directors he said:

"It is particularly important that every effort be exerted among home builders to induce the production of housing at price levels as much under the $10,000 maximum as feasible. If in your jurisdiction applications tend to concentrate at or immediately below the $10,000 level without a fair distribution among lower price brackets, I wish you would bring the facts to my attention immediately."

Mr. Foley also pointed out that housing already under construction may be brought within the Reconversion Housing Program if it meets the standards set in the CPA's Priorities Regulation 33.

Aside from the $10,000 maximum sales price and $80 a month rental the CPA regulation further requires:

1. Applicants must furnish description of the structures they plan to build and the price or rental at which they will make it available to veterans. FHA field offices must be satisfied that the proposed sale price or rent is reasonably related to the proposed accommodation.

2. Applicants must certify that they will start construction within 90 days and demonstrate that they have effective control of the land, that financing is assured, and that arrangements have been made for local building permits, utility services, and gas lines.

3. Applicants must agree to make the housing available only to veterans during the period of construction and for 30 days thereafter. In his sales agreements, a veteran or other buyer is obliged to live same 30-day waiting period in case of a re-sale and the sale must be made at or below the maximum sales price originally paid.

4. The regulation makes possible also the conversion of existing structures where it is shown increased dwelling units will result and it also covers construction of dormitories or group housing for educational institutions for the benefit of veterans.

Ohio Labor Fights Unfair Rulings In State Jobless Compensation Law

Columbus, Ohio.—A three-pronged drive to eliminate unfair disqualifications in the Ohio Unemployment Compensation law was launched today by Phil Hannah, secretary-treasurer of the Ohio State Federation of Labor.

He telegraphed a demand for an investigation to Chairman Arthur J. Altmeyer, of the Social Security Board, declaring that thousands of Ohio workers and their families are suffering needless hardships because of technicalities in the law.

Then Mr. Hannah called upon Director Robert Goodwin of the U. S. Employment Service to use his good offices for the elimination of the double-standard system which discriminates against applicants for unemployment compensation in Ohio.

Finally, he appealed to Governor Lausche of Ohio to convene a special session.

Mr. Hannah explained in a letter to the governor that wide injustices are resulting from the failure of the Ohio General Assembly to write into the law a definition of "suitable work." As a result, he said, many skilled and highly trained workmen who have lost their jobs are refused compensation when they reject referrals for low-paid, unskilled jobs, such as dishwashing. He added:

"The refusal of benefits plus the ever-rising cost of living are working severe but unnecessary hardships on Ohio workers.

"The refusal to grant a half-billion in the U. C. fund, it seems that Ohio should accept a more liberal definition of policy in the payment of benefits to temporarily displaced workers. That is, before it will release the fund in fact, it is not a shrine at which to worship.

"In view of the desperate plight of thousands of workers due to the lack of a 'suitable work' definition and failure of the legislature to act upon it, I urge you as governor to call a special session of the 86th General Assembly to remedy the U. C. law so that it will function as originally intended."

Housewives Urged To Give Support To Maintenance of Price Control

Washington, D. C.—An effective appeal to American housewives to back up continued price control to protect themselves again st inflated prices and shrinking real wages is published in the current issue of the Journeymen Plumbers and Steam Fitters Journal.

The article suggests that Congress consult housewives before deciding to end price controls by June 30.

Although prices are unquestionably high now, they still have not reached the fantastic pinnacles that were attained after World War No. 1, when there was no such government regulation to protect consumers.

"The housewives of America," the article says "are sensible enough to know that abolishing price control before the production of goods and services approaches peacetime requirements can mean only inflation.

"She must also realize that if she sits idly by and permits the people who believe they will benefit from dissension to hoodwink the politicians—then inflation will come.

"She must watch the men and women who represent her in Congress and let them know that price control must be maintained despite the organized minorities who believe in the 'public be damned.' The responsibility with the people who know what is happening to prices—the housewives of America."

CONGRESS STARTS PROBE OF HUGE TAX REFUNDS

Washington, D. C.—Hearings to start soon before the Senate Labor and Education Committee may cast light on how giant corporations are using tax refunds granted by the government to wage war against the trade union movement.

These refunds run into billions, and when Congress authorized them the law was that the money would be available to the companies to reconvert more swiftly to peacetime production.

VETERANS SUPPORT AFL SENIORITY PLAN

Charleston, S. C.—Local war veterans are lining up with organized labor in support of straight seniority as the only real protection of workers against favoritism.

Memorial Post No. 19 of the American Legion, composed to a large extent of Charleston navy yard workers, went on record for a seniority system in the yards, such as AFL unions have been battling for.

The post's action was regarded as especially important, because some Legion leaders in Washington have been opposing seniority, sponsored by labor, to provide that layoffs and rehirings in navy yards shall be based exclusively on seniority.

AFL COUNCIL RESISTS ANTI-STRIKE MEASURES

Miami.—Members of the AFL Executive Council gathered here for their midwinter meeting determined to resist to the utmost any move in Congress to impose curbs on labor unions and limitations on the right to strike.

The AFL leaders were particularly gratified by the federation's own good record in maintaining collective bargaining relations with employers and obtaining wage increases for the most part without resort to strikes, as was reported to President Truman by AFL Chief William Green.

Many phases of national and international affairs will come up for discussion and decision at the Executive Council meeting which is expected to last from 10 days to 2 weeks.

CONGRESS BACK IN ANTI-LABOR DITHER

Washington, D. C.—Congress returned to the nation's capital for its 1946 session in a dither about strikes.

Not a bit mellowed by their long year-end vacation, the legislators burst into a flood of angry speeches aimed at labor and warned of drastic action against strikers.

First step was a White House conference at which President Truman told Democratic leaders he would insist on adoption of his proposal for compulsory cooling-off periods and fact-finding boards to deal with major labor-management disputes.

At the Capitol, opinion boiled over as extreme antilabor lawmakers vied with each other for the headlines.

Senators James O. Eastland (D., Miss.) and W. Lee O'Daniel (D., Tex.) announced flatly they will move to discharge the Senate Education and Labor Committee from further consideration of the presidents fact-finding, cooling-off bill "so that Congress may consider this legislation immediately."

Senator Harry Flood Byrd (D., Va.) drafted a bill (1) incorporate labor unions, (2) require them to register and report financial and other data to the Securities and Exchange Commission as corporations must do, (3) make unions subject to suit for civil damages for breach of contract or unlawful destruction of property, and (4) penalize secondary boycott by withdrawing benefits under the National Labor Relations Act.

Senator Josiah W. Bailey (D., N. C.) said he will draft legislation to (1) revise the National Labor Relations Act "to give employers equal footing;" (2) abolish the principle of the closed shop, and (3) make the NLRB with a new independent board "to look out for the public interests."

A spokesman for the House Military Committee said it is "possible" the committee may write a rule on the May-Arends bill repealing the Smith-Connally law, penalizing any labor violation during war contracts, and prohibiting organized labor participation in primaries, conventions or election of public officials. The House last session rejected a rule on the bill.

Despite all this sound and fury, Congressional leaders indicated disinclination to act at present on antistrike legislation and predicted current labor-management disputes would clear up soon.

After the White House conference, Senator Kenneth McKellar, presiding officer of the Senate, said:

"From what was told me, I am very hopeful disputes can be settled. If they can clear up some of the big ones, most of the pressure for drastic action will be gone."

Senate Majority Leader Barkley, who also conferred with the President, echoed McKellar's views. Many other Senators predicted Congress would not take extreme action.

"I don't see anything Congress can do," said Senator Millard Tydings (D., Md.). "Let the collective bargaining process work. It's going to be tough, but we will settle most of the disputes that way."

WILL THORNE DIES, BRITISH LABOR LEADER

London, England—British labor has lost one of its most colorful leaders in the death of Will Thorne, at the ripe age of 88.

He was well known among older American labormen, having been a fraternal delegate to conventions of the American Federation of Labor. He was also the first delegate sent by British labor to Canada, where he attended a Trades and Labor Congress convention in 1915.

Truman Praises AFL Record In Keeping Down Strikes

Green Reports Only Tiny Fraction of AFL Members Have Quit Work

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green reported to President Truman at a White House conference on Jan. 11 that only a fraction of one percent of the 7,000,000 members of the American Federation of Labor were out on strike.

President Truman, Mr. Green told newsmen later, said he was conscious of the fact that not many AFL unions were engaged in strikes and thanked Mr. Green for backing up the nation's reconversion program.

The newspapers, apparently intent on playing up strike news in scare headlines, ignored for the most part Mr. Green's highly constructive report, copies of which were made available to daily press.

In the report, Mr. Green emphasized that AFL unions were obtaining wage increases for their members through collective bargaining with employers and challenged claims that collective bargaining has broken down in America.

The text of his report to the President follows:

"As to date, only a fraction of 1 percent of the membership of the American Federation of Labor and its affiliated unions is on strike. Out of a total of close to 7,000,000 members, only about 40,000 have quit work as the result of disputes. The figure is approximate, but it is the most accurate we can obtain from our own sources and from the Department of Labor.

"That is not an excessive strike total for the largest labor organization in the nation. It is not more than can be expected even in normal times in a free country where the right to strike is a fundamental part of the law of the land.

"Nor are the comparatively few current strikes by American Federation of Labor unions dangerous to the nation's reconversion program. For the most part they are small and scattered shutdowns.

"Mr. President, the members of the American Federation of Labor are busy—working.

"In every part of the nation they are bargaining collectively with their employers, seeking their goals in an intelligent and reasonable manner. They want wage rate increases and need such increases because their purchasing power has been sharply cut since the war ended and living costs are still climbing.

"Through collective bargaining new agreements and new contracts are being negotiated and signed each day by American Federation of Labor unions and employers.

"Those who assert that collective bargaining has broken down don't know what is going on in America. On the contrary, collective bargaining is functioning successfully wherever it is put into practice sincerely.

"Unfortunately, strikes make the headlines while agreements are not considered news. For this reason, a large part of the public may gain the impression that labor-management relations generally have become disrupted to a point where regulatory legislation and government control are needed. That is not the case.

"The real trouble is that collective bargaining is not being practiced and never has been practiced in certain mass production industries which are the sore spots in the labor-industry picture.

"Events have confirmed our belief that not a single strike exists in our nation which could not be settled satisfactorily and constructively by the powers applicable to collective bargaining and voluntary arbitration."

N. Y. Electrical Workers Sign New No-Strike Pact

New York City.—Employers and workers of the electrical construction industry in Greater New York announced a no-strike, no-lockout agreement for the duration of the existing housing crisis.

In making public the terms of the agreement, A. Lincoln Bush, chairman of the Electrical Industry Board of the Electrical Industry, said that the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 3, in addition had voluntarily agreed to relinquish its contractual right to time and a half for overtime and offered to work two 7-hour shifts, both shifts at regular time, until the housing shortage abates.

In a move described as "unprecedented in the construction industry," the union also sanctioned the use of the most modern technological methods and the unrestricted use of high-speed, labor-saving tools and devices in order to reduce the cost of essential housing and to make new dwellings available as soon as possible for returning veterans.

More than 10,000 electrical construction workers and 364 electrical contracting companies are affected by the terms of the new agreement.

In a statement, hailing the benefits to the public contained in the contract, Mr. Bush said:

"All of this has been made possible by the harmonious relationship that has existed between the employers and the union over a long period of years. It should now be possible for large-scale housing to get under way and to be completed at reduced cost to the public in record time.

"The Joint Industry Board of the Electrical Industry, representing both labor and management in this key field, hopes that other trades in the construction business will follow its lead and make possible still further reductions in cost and time."

Mr. Bush said that the unorthodox terms of the agreement were accepted by the union because employers in his industry have sponsored a comprehensive program of workers' social benefits. These include, he said, hospitalization benefits for both husband and wife, disability payments, and old-age pensions, which in the case of men over 65 guarantees a total monthly income of $100.

Harry Van Arsdale, Jr., business manager of Local 3, also expressed satisfaction concerning the new understanding in the industry. He said:

"At a time when thousands of our returning veterans are unable to find homes for themselves and their families, both labor and management must do everything possible in order to hasten construction and lower the cost of housing to the consumer. I am satisfied that we have made an excellent beginning."

Green Urges 7 Million AFL Members To Join "March of Dimes" Drive

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green appealed to all AFL members to break all previous records in their support of the "March of Dimes" campaign of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

Mr. Green, who again is serving as chairman of the Labor Division of the "March of Dimes," declared that the war of the nation can be won, and that the struggle against infantile paralysis, a crippler of children, can be brought under control.

"For the first time in 13 years, the March of Dimes, annual appeal of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, is being held January 14-31 without the living presence of the man who inaugurated the fight against infantile paralysis and became its symbol: our late President, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

"The cause for which he fought so valiantly is bequeathed to the American public. The fight is not yet won. We must reinforce our strength and increase our effort until final victory is achieved.

"Half of your contributions to the March of Dimes remain with your local chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis to be used for special equipment, hospitalization, transportation, and treatment and care of polio patients. The other half goes to the national foundation for research, education and emergency aid during epidemics.

Truman Endorses Union Label Idea

Washington, D. C.—President Truman approved of the principle of the Union Label in a letter to the AFL Union Label Trades Department. The letter was in response to an invitation to attend the Union Label and Industrial Exhibition in St. Louis, Oct. 29 to Nov. 3. The President said he could not make a definite appointment at this time.

The rest of his letter follows:

"I trust that the 1946 Union Label and Industrial Exhibition will be an outstanding success in full keeping with its laudable aims. The purpose of such an exhibition, and of the other work of your department, is important. Through other types of labeling the consumer has a guide to the content and quality of the goods he purchases. Through the union label he has knowledge that the men and women who make the product work at fair wages and under decent conditions. By educating consumers in general to the full meaning of the union label, you will enable them to give added impetus to the establishment and maintenance of fair labor standards."

I. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department, said that plans and preparations are now under way for the greatest union labor exhibition ever held.

Navy's Employes Seek Wage Hike

Washington, D. C.—The Navy Department was urged to consider increasing wages of some 200,000 employes of navy yards and arsenals across the country.

James A. McEntee, secretary-treasurer of the AFL Metal Trades Departments headed a 15-man delegation which presented the demands to Assistant Secretary of the Navy John L. Sullivan. The union proposal agreed upon at a conference attended by more than 100 representatives, is for "restoration of the purchasing power of the dollar based on January 1, 1941 figures."

"We're trying to maintain a decent living standard for our members," said we're asking the Navy Department to set an example for the rest of the country."

He said the last wage adjustment came in 1942 and provided for an 8 cents hourly boost.

GREEN ASKS ACCORD OF LABOR-MANAGEMENT

Chicago—With President William Green of the AFL as the opening speaker, the Chicago Federation of Labor started on a unique program of monthly labor-management luncheons, aimed at building better understanding between both sides.

Over 500 employers and union members attended the first luncheon, at which Green warned against enactment of antilabor legislation. He appealed for employer support in the fight, declaring "management cannot remain free if labor is shackled."

The AFL chieftain also denounced proposals to tie wages to "profits and losses" of industry. Wages should be based on "decency and comfort" to attain an American standard of living, he said.

Ford Hits Laws To Ban Strikes

Detroit.—Henry Ford, 2d, youthful president of the Ford Motor Company, called for industrial statesmanship to "find the underlying cause of labor unrest" and to eliminate industrial strife without "impairing or eliminating the rights which both management and labor must continue to enjoy."

In a radio talk here, Ford said solution of the problem of human relations in industry would lower costs to consumers and help make the nation prosperous. He insisted the solution can be found through closer understanding between management and labor.

"We cannot expect legislation to solve our problems," he said. "Laws which seek to force large groups of Americans to do what they believe is unfair and against their best interests are not likely to succeed. In fact, such legislation can lead to exasperation of the very problem it is designed to solve." And when free men give up the task of trying to get along with each other, and pass the buck to government, they surrender a substantial measure of their freedom.

THE AFL PRESENTS . . . "AMERICA UNITED" At 1:15 P.M., EWT, Over NBC

Date	Topic	Panel Members
Jan. 20	Problems of Government Workers	James B. Burns, AFL Rep. Bieshller, WI. Russell Smith, National Farmers Union
Jan. 27	America's Housing Emergency	Boris Shishkin, AFL Wilson Wyatt, Housing Expediter F. S. Fitzpatrick, U. S. Chamber of Commerce
Feb. 3	Need for Health Insurance	Nelson Cruikshank, AFL Senator Pepper, of Florida Russell Smith, National Farmers Union
Feb. 10	Long-Range Home Plans	Boris Shishkin, AFL Senator Wagner, of New York Russell Smith, National Farmers Union